



*from* the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee  
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## EOC votes to defer decision on indicators within biology content standards

**Columbia** – At its meeting yesterday, South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (EOC) members voted to recommend adoption of the South Carolina Science Academic Standards, with the exception of four indicators included within a biology content standard.

The committee does not have the authority within state statute to revise the content standards and can recommend approval or disapproval to the South Carolina State Board of Education.

The four indicators extracted by the committee for further study are included within Standard B-5, which demonstrate students' ability to "demonstrate an understanding of biological evolution and the diversity of life," and include:

- B-5.2 Explain how genetic processes result in the continuity of life-forms over time.
- B-5.4 Explain how genetic variability and environmental factors lead to biological evolution.
- B-5.5 Exemplify scientific evidence in the fields of anatomy, embryology, biochemistry, and paleontology that underlies the theory of biological evolution.
- B-5.7 Use a phylogenetic tree to identify the evolutionary relationships among different groups of organisms.

"The staff of the EOC has been charged with organizing a balanced panel of scientists and science educators to advise the committee regarding interpreting and ultimately making a decision on the indicators in question," stated Jo Anne Anderson, EOC Executive Director. "We are asking our colleagues at the State Department of Education for recommendations of individuals from the science community who can assist the committee in bringing about a resolution."

*Established by the EAA, the EOC is an independent, non-partisan, 18-member legislative committee made up of educators, business persons, and elected officials who serve by virtue of their elected position or by appointment of the legislature or governor. It bears responsibilities for the development and improvement of SC's educational accountability system and for making recommendations to ensure the continuous improvement of schools.*

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